

## *Old Testament*

Books of Poetry

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## *Hebrew Poetry*

It is not the type of poetry to which we are accustomed.

1. It does not use **rhyme**.
2. Its main feature is **parallelism**.

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## *Parallelism*

1. A statement is made in the first line.
2. The second line refers back to the first.
  - It may **repeat** the idea.
  - It may **expand** the idea.
  - It may **contrast** the idea.

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### *Types of Hebrew Poetry*

1. **Lyric**—designed to be accompanied by music.
2. **Didactic**—intended to teach people to observe and evaluate life.
3. **Prophetic**—intended to have people look toward the future (found in Isaiah, not the poetic books)

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### *Types of Hebrew Poetry*

4. **Elegiac**—records human grief and sorrow (found in Lamentations and Jeremiah)
5. **Dramatic**—conveys ideas and truth through dialogue and monologue like a play (found in Job and Song of Songs)

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### *Books of Poetry*

1. Job
2. Psalms
3. Proverbs
4. Ecclesiastes
5. Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon)
6. Lamentations

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## ***Job***

1. Job deals with the **suffering** of righteous people
2. Job lost everything
  - a. His **wealth**.
  - b. His **children**
  - c. His **health**
3. Job continued to **worship God**.

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## ***Psalms***

1. It was the **songbook** of Israel.
2. It covers a wide range of subjects and touches on all human emotions.
3. The idea of **praise** is found in almost all of the Psalms.
4. **David** wrote more than anyone else (at least 73).

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## ***Proverbs***

1. It gives advice on living a **disciplined life**.
2. It gives wisdom about all areas of life.
  - a. Wisdom isn't just thinking or acting correctly.
  - b. Wisdom is viewing life and self from **God's perspective**.

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## ***Ecclesiastes***

1. It tells of mankind's **struggle** to find meaning and fulfillment in life.
2. The basic theme is that life is **empty** and **meaningless** without a right relationship with God.
3. Solomon wrote the book based on his personal life experiences.

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## ***Song of Songs (Solomon)***

1. It records the memories of a **bride** and **groom** about their meeting, courtship, and marriage.
2. It is a personal **love story**.

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## ***Lamentations***

1. It is a **lament** (expression of grief) about the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem.
2. It is filled with physical and emotional **pain**.
3. It is a **sequel** to the book of Jeremiah.

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